

# **LOANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AND AGM**

## **Loans Village Hall**

### **Meeting Minutes 8 May 2024**

**PRESENT:** David Chalmers, Sheila Paton, Fred McCrory, Keith Mason, John Williamson

**APOLOGIES:** John Pritchard

#### ***1. Welcome by Chairman***

The Chairman welcomed all attendees to tonight's meeting. The meeting will be in two parts; the AGM followed by the Ordinary meeting.

Before we start we will discuss the Police Report followed by a short briefing by Stephen Chambers from Openreach regarding a forthcoming project in Loans.

#### ***2. Police Report***

Sgt Chris Burns attended the meeting this week and reported there have been no incidents of note to report again in the part month.

One attendees at the meeting referenced an incident that was reported regarding the driving of a school bus through the village. Sgt Burns confirmed that the police do deploy officers with a speed gun when resources allow.

DC noted that the number of cars generated by the new houses that have been built over the last 5 years has contributed to the increased volume of traffic through the village.

#### ***3. Openreach***

Stephen Chambers from Openreach attended the session to provide an overview of a voucher project that may have eligible households in Loans and Southwood. About 10 years ago the broadband speeds were upgraded but now fibre cables will replace existing copper cables. It's called 'Ultrafast', a box would be installed on outside of the property and the speeds offered would be about 10 times faster than services currently available. For Openreach to do this project they are looking to use Government funding but local appetite is required. The Village Hall is booked on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May night inviting people who are going to be impacted to come and view a presentation. The voucher

scheme covers a certain amount of work subject to being able to meet specific criteria. VH asking about whether the Hall capacity will be sufficient for the meeting and the Stephen confirmed that this is something that they do regularly and if they get ~25 people that would be good. Only the 200 people who have got a postcard from Openreach are being targeted for this upgrade project. If anyone is unsure of their eligibility, they can go to Openreach website and put in their post code and find out if they are eligible.

## **AGM**

### ***4. Minutes of AGM 10 May 2023***

DC provided a recap on the key points from the minutes of the 2023 AGM.

**4.1** The minutes noted that there was a continuing reduction in the number of members of it's public attending our meetings. The Village Hall has reported a similar drop in usage.

**4.2** We welcomed two new members of the Council. Keith and Libby. Unfortunately, Libby has since moved away from the Village.

**4.3** The joint Village Hall/Community website got up and running

**4.4** Further improvements to Loans Park noted

**4.5** The Queens Jubilee was celebrated in the Village as was the coronation

**4.6** Classes in the use of the defibrillator were held

**4.7** The AGM minutes were proposed by Keith Mason and seconded by Fred McCrory

### ***5. Chairman's Report***

**5.1** Since last May there have been 9 formal meetings of the Community Council - all but two were quorate. There were also another three informal meetings held with Council members present

**5.2** 2023/2024 has been a year when we have spent more time speaking about potential projects than securing their procurement

- The Walkers Rest project was presented for funding and included the development of the Village Hall Gardens to form a focus of information celebrating the Smugglers Trail and the history of the

village and surrounding area all on story boards set in the re-landscaped garden. The project also included improvement works in Hall Lane

- The second project we hoped to see underway consisted of further improvements within Loans Park providing additional pathways to allow year-round use of the Park while also linking as many parts of the village as possible to the latest phase of the Loans/Troon cycle/pathway. We feel this would also strengthen the case for the provision of one or two safe pedestrian crossings on Main Street. While this project was not presented for funding in the past year we certainly hope to do so in the coming year. Keith is currently researching various funding streams that might be suitable.
- With regard to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase of the Loans/Troon cycle/pathway we have campaigned for improvements to the Seaview Terrace/Main Street junction to allow safer exiting and accessing for both cyclists and vehicular traffic hopefully before the cycleway is completed
- Additional bus shelters have also been provided in the past year together with the improvement to services with the No 14 bus route being extended to reprovide the Ayr Hospital link that we lost a few years ago.
- We also maintain a link via our Ward Councillors to various services such as Ayrshire Roads Alliance, Street Cleaning, Parks Department etc. as well as monitoring planning applications when they may affect the village. In the past few months we responded to the necessary service to deal with a sight-line problem at the Troon Road/Collins Drive junction and a storm weather problem at the Crummieholm/Main Street junction
- We hope in the coming year to have ARA review our traffic calming system. Speedy traffic remains a problem. We recently requested the police to monitor the traffic and during a one-hour period, six drivers were stopped for speeding offences - certainly a sign that a review is necessary

**5.3** As mentioned earlier, Covid has left it's mark on the village. Before Covid, the Hall hosted many events and social evenings. The Social Hub has ceased to exist. Quiz nights seem to be a thing of the past.

Public attendance at Community Council meetings sadly has also fallen dramatically. A few years ago, we introduced a 'forum' into our agenda which did encourage public participation. It no longer does. We only seem to generate public attendance when there is a complaint or some service is not up to standard. We would welcome more interest in the use of the Village Hall and interest in what the Community Council can do for the village. For example, it would be encouraging to have volunteers to help maintain the Village Hall gardens and the many planters situated around the village.

**5.4** To maintain the Community Council we need to maintain membership. We are allowed to have up to 9 members and we currently have six. We need a minimum of five to be in attendance to be able to hold a meeting. New members would be most welcome with new and fresh ideas. Come and speak to us.

**5.5** Regarding fresh ideas, an innovative method of establishing the details of residents in South Ayrshire is currently underway under the banner of 'Place Planning'. SAC will be issuing a circular to all households shortly with an explanation and information on where to collect a questionnaire. The questionnaire can be completed online or on a paper form. Collection boxes will be provided for paper returns as advised on the questionnaire.

## ***6. Report by Treasurer***

**6.1** The Community Council receives a grant of £600 each year called the Administration grant which is meant to cover all our outgoings from insurance, websites, printer ink, paper etc.

Our current income and expenditure account stands at £531.00. This figure includes a grant we received for the upkeep of the Village defibrillator. We have just spent almost £90 from this grant for replacement of the defibrillator pads which run out of usage date shortly.

**6.2** There were no queries raised from the account update.

## ***7. Election of Office Bearers***

**7.1** This matter needs to be carried over to our June meeting.

## **8. Date of Next Years AGM**

**8.1** Next AGM will be in May 2025. Date to be announced.

## **Ordinary Meeting – May 2024**

Before moving on to the ordinary monthly Community Council meeting, DC handed over a special portrait to hang in the Village Hall especially donated but King Charles to coincide with the first anniversary of the Coronation.

### **1. Minutes of Previous Meeting 10 April 2024**

- Proposed by Keith Mason and seconded by Fred McCrory

### **2. Matters Arising**

**2.1** Following the inspection of the defibrillator last month a replacement set of pads have been ordered as the two-year life of the present pads expires at the end of this month. The cost will be £86.39 which will come from the £500 grant in place for such expenditure

### **3. Report by Treasurer**

**3.1** The application for the 2024/2025 Administration Grant has been forwarded to SAC. At the time of applying, our account stood at £531.00. Since then, we have received a donation of £1665.22 from the winding up of the Loans Social Hub for the purpose of providing a new public notice board.

Our account presently stands at £2109.83. This includes the remainder of the defibrillator grant of £413.61.

**3.2** No questions on the accounts.

### **4. Any other Business/ Forum**

#### **4.1** Bicycle Referral Scheme

The Council are involved in a project where school staff and other education, community and family support practitioners can make a request for a bicycle for a young person. The project is in partnership with the Community Gift Exchange – based close to the Grain Exchange, Ayr – and is sponsored by Cycling Scotland, who head up Bikeability Scotland.

There is no cost to the school or families for this service – it is fully funded with support of Cycling Scotland and Thriving Communities.

### **Donating a Bicycle!**

This project is urgently seeking donations of pre-loved bicycles suited to young people aged 7-12. We would also be pleased to receive donations of bicycles for older children and adults. If any school or community group has an old fleet of bicycles not being used, they can arrange collection of these.

They will also be more than happy to talk to any school who would link to contribute in this way. The contact is **Paul Wright** Community Sports Hub Officer [paul.wright@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:paul.wright@south-ayrshire.gov.uk) Tel: 07557 800 926

### **4.2 Ayrshire Link Community Advisory Group Membership**

A request has come in looking for members of the local community who might be interested in joining CAG. Shona Maloney has been in touch. She works for streets-UK who are involved in overseeing the public engagement and communications for the Ayrshire Link project which is aimed at improving and expanding active travel within Ayrshire.

The remit of this group is more focused on active travel so walking, wheeling, cycling, scootering etc. Individual communities may be more interested in some aspects of active travel over others, depending on their demographics.

The CAG is a great way to hear about the project in relation to your community and it also gives members a chance to feed back any issues and barriers to active travel.

**4.3** John Pritchard has resigned from the Community Council effective today

### **5. Next Meeting**

**5.1** The next meeting 'should' be 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024, however, due to the availability of members, there is a desire to move this to the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 instead. *It was confirmed post meeting that the Hall could accommodate this date move.*

**END**